

Learning English with CBC Calgary

Weekly newscast

January 25th 2012

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Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as, an ESL classroom resource



www.alberta.ca

<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

News story #1

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word	Definition
	1. estimated	a) grand; large and beautiful
	2. jubilant	b) to give or to present
	3. majestic	c) greatly respected
	4. devote	d) what is morally right
	5. revered	e) to cheer loudly
	6. embrace	f) very joyful; happy and excited
	7. deliver	g) assign or dedicate for a purpose
	8. roar	h) to hug or hold close
	9. appeal	i) to guess how much or how many
	10. justice	j) to request support

Extra definitions to help you understand the story:

swearing in / swear an oath / take the oath of office – to promise to follow all the laws. Before officially becoming president Obama had to promise to protect and defend America to the best of his ability.

Inaugural address – The first speech a new president gives that **mentions** (talks about) plans for the time of leadership.

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: Short Answer

Read and answer the questions below. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. How many people watched Barack Obama take the oath of office?
2. Where did Obama swear the oath of office?
3. What was special about the day Obama took the oath of office?
4. Who was Martin Luther King Jr.?
5. How long was Obama's inaugural address?
6. What did Obama talk about in his inaugural address?
7. What did Obama mention in his speech that had never been mentioned before in an inaugural address?
8. What did Obama ask of Americans?

Discussion Question

What do you think are some of the most important issues the American and/or Canadian government should work to resolve.

News story #2

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary - Read the definitions below, and then put the sentences in the correct order. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Words and Definitions
Wow – to impress
Audience – people watching a show
Triumph – happiness about a victory or success
Inspiration – something that gives others great ideas or motivation
Complain – to say what is causing you pain or discomfort

1. His wowed tricks. The with us magician
The magician wowed us with his tricks.
2. When clapped the the was show audience loudly. over

3. triumph. After her about working talked very she hard,

4. generosity is to people, many inspiration Oprah's an

5. Many winters people in cold complain Alberta. about the

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. ____ Oprah Winfrey is considered the Queen of daytime talk TV.
2. ____ Oprah was in Calgary on Monday and Edmonton on Tuesday.
3. ____ Most of the audience was male.
4. ____ Oprah shared inspirational and triumphant personal stories.
5. ____ Many people believe seeing Oprah is a once in a life time experience.
6. ____ Oprah complained about the cold weather in Calgary.
7. ____ Oprah said she should have been invited in July to see the Calgary Stampede.

Discussion Question

Have you ever watched Oprah on TV? Why do many people think Oprah is inspirational? Who do you think is inspirational?

News story #3

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

linebacker (defence football player)	retire (to stop working)	involved (participating)
sibling (brother/sister)	stardom (become famous)	matchup (competition)
coach (instruct a sports team)	nickname (fun name)	half-century (50 years)

Super Bowl – the yearly championship game of the National Football League (NFL) in America.

1. The Super Bowl has been a very popular game for the past _____ in America
2. This year the two teams _____ are the San Francisco 49ers and the Baltimore Ravens.
3. This year they have a _____ for the Super Bowl, the Brother Bowl.
4. The fans are excited for the _____.
5. The _____ has an important job to protect the ball for his team.
6. All players must listen carefully to the _____ instructions.
7. _____ often fight when they are young.
8. Actors who rise to _____ earn more money.
9. My mother plans to _____ when she is 65 years old.

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

Listening activity: Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Big brother Harbaugh coaches the _____ and little brother Harbaugh coaches the ____.	a) San Francisco 49ers / Baltimore Ravens b) Baltimore Ravens / San Francisco 49ers
2. This year the Super Bowl will be in _____ on _____.	a) New Orleans / February 3 rd . b) San Francisco / February 4 th .
3. Linebacker Ray Lewis will _____	a) become a star. b) soon retire.
4. Colin Kaepernick is the quarterback (lead offense player) for the _____.	a) San Francisco 49ers b) Baltimore Ravens
5. This coaching matchup will be _____ in 50 years.	a) the most exciting football game b) the most carefully watched football game
6. John and Jim Harbaugh are the first brothers to _____.	a) to play football against each other in the NFL b) to coach against each other in the NFL

Discussion Question

Who is your favorite athlete? What is the most popular sport in your country?

Language Focus

Prepositions

Prepositions – we use prepositions to show the relationship of an object to the rest of the sentence or to another object, place or person. Prepositions usually explain time, location, direction, source, or a logical relationship.

Here are some common examples of prepositions and when to use them:

Prepositions of time		Prepositions of place	
on	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Days of the week	on	<ul style="list-style-type: none">On top of somethingOn public transportation
in	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Months, yearsA certain amount of timeThe morning/afternoon	in	<ul style="list-style-type: none">In a large space (building, park, room)
at	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A certain timenight	at	<ul style="list-style-type: none">location where something happensevents
before	<ul style="list-style-type: none">earlier than an event/time	before	<ul style="list-style-type: none">in front of
after	<ul style="list-style-type: none">later than an event/time	from	<ul style="list-style-type: none">movement away from a placeto show where something originates
for	<ul style="list-style-type: none">over a certain period of time	towards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">movement in the direction of something
since	<ul style="list-style-type: none">from a time until now	to	<ul style="list-style-type: none">movement towards a location or person

Look at the following sentences from the first news story. Highlight the prepositions and think about which relationship it shows.

US President Barack Obama took the oath of office on Monday before an estimated 800,000 jubilant people.

Obama's public swearing-in at the majestic Capitol building took place on the national holiday devoted to revered civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

Obama embraced his wife and daughters as the crowd roared its approval after he swore the oath of office.

It was the first time any U.S. president has mentioned gay rights in an inaugural address.

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	JANUARY 25 TH WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, this is Nirmala Naidoo and you're listening to Learning English with CBC for January 25th.	0:00
Story 1	US President Barack Obama took the oath of office on Monday before an estimated 800,000 jubilant people. Obama's public swearing-in at the majestic Capitol building took place on the national holiday devoted to revered civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. Obama embraced his wife and daughters as the crowd roared its approval after he swore the oath of office. Obama then delivered a 19-minute speech that talked about his administration's priorities, including immigration reform, gun control, climate change and same-sex marriage. It was the first time any U.S. president has mentioned gay rights in an inaugural address. The crowd cheered on Obama's appeal for Americans to come together and fight for justice and equality.	0:11
Story 2	The Queen of daytime talk TV was greeted in Alberta with sold-out crowds. Oprah Winfrey was at Edmonton's Rexall Place on Monday night and Calgary's Saddle Dome on Tuesday. Oprah wowed her mostly-female audience with her personal stories of triumph and inspiration. Fans came from as far away as the Northwest Territories and outside of Canada. Many people said it was a once in a lifetime experience so they paid hundreds of dollars to see her. In Calgary Oprah said she should have been invited in July so she could see the Stampede. In Edmonton, Oprah complained about the cold.	01:26
Story 3	Get ready for the Brother Bowl. It'll be Harbaugh vs. Harbaugh when Big Brother John's Baltimore Ravens play Little Brother Jim's San Francisco 49ers in the Super Bowl in New Orleans on February 3rd. Even though there will be much talk about the players involved -- from Ravens linebacker Ray Lewis, who will soon retire to 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick's sudden stardom -- the sibling story will make this coaching match-up the most carefully watched in the nearly half-century of Super Bowls. John and Jim Harbaugh are the first brothers to coach against each other in the NFL Super Bowl. This year's game has been given many different nicknames including the Brother Bowl...The Harbaugh Bowl, The Har-Bowl...and the Super-Baugh.	02:34

Answer keys

News story 1

Vocabulary

Answer	Word	Definition
i	1. estimated	a) grand; large and beautiful
f	2. jubilant	b) to give or to present
a	3. majestic	c) greatly respected
g	4. devote	d) what is morally right
c	5. revered	e) to cheer loudly
h	6. embrace	f) very joyful; happy and excited
b	7. deliver	g) assign or dedicate for a purpose
e	8. roared	h) to hug or hold close
J	9. appeal	i) to guess how much or how many
d	10. justice	j) to request support

Listening

1. How many people watched Barack Obama take the oath of office? *An estimated 800,000.*
2. Where did Obama swear the oath of office? *At the majestic Capitol building*
3. What was special about the day Obama took the oath of office? *It was a national holiday devoted to Martin Luther King Jr.*
4. Who was Martin Luther King Jr.? *A revered civil rights leader*
5. How long was Obama's inaugural address? *19 minutes*
6. What did Obama talk about in his inaugural address? *He talked about his administration's priorities: immigration reform, gun control, climate change and same sex marriage.*
7. What did Obama mention in his speech that had never been mentioned before in an inaugural address? *Gay rights*
8. What did Obama ask of Americans? *He appealed for Americans to come together and fight for justice and equality.*

News story 2

Vocabulary

1. **The magician wowed us with his tricks.**
2. When the show was over the audience clapped loudly.
3. After working very hard, she talked about her triumph.
4. Oprah's generosity is an inspiration to many people.
5. Many people complain about the cold winters in Alberta.

Listening

1. T Oprah Winfrey is considered the Queen of daytime talk TV.
2. F Oprah was in Calgary on Monday and Edmonton on Tuesday.
3. F Most of the audience was male.
4. T Oprah shared inspirational and triumphant personal stories.
5. T Many people believe seeing Oprah is a once in a life time experience.
6. F Oprah complained about the cold weather in Calgary.
7. T Oprah said she should have been invited in July to see the Calgary Stampede.

News story 3

Vocabulary

1. The Super Bowl has been a very popular game for the past half-century in America
2. This year the two teams involved are the San Francisco 49ers and the Baltimore Ravens.
3. This year they have a nickname for the Super Bowl, the Brother Bowl.
4. The fans are excited for the matchup.
5. The linebacker has an important job to protect the ball for his team.
6. All players must listen carefully to the coach's instructions.
7. Siblings often fight when they are young.
8. Actors who rise to stardom earn more money.
9. My mother plans to retire when she is 65 years old.

Listening

1. Big brother Harbaugh coaches the _____ and Little brother Harbaugh coaches the ____.	a) San Francisco 49ers / Baltimore Ravens b) Baltimore Ravens / San Francisco 49ers
2. This year the Super Bowl will be in _____ on _____.	a) New Orleans / February 3 rd . b) San Francisco / February 4 th .
3. Linebacker Ray Lewis will _____	a) become a star. b) soon retire.
4. Colin Kaepernick is the quarterback (lead offense player) for the _____.	a) San Francisco 49ers b) Baltimore Ravens
5. This coaching matchup will be _____ in 50 years.	a) the most exciting football game b) the most carefully watched football game
6. John and Jim Harbaugh are the first brothers to _____.	a) to play football against each other in the NFL b) to coach against each other in the NFL Super Bowl

Language focus

US President Barack Obama took the oath of office **on** Monday **before** an estimated 800,000 jubilant people.

Obama's public swearing-in **at** the majestic Capitol building took place **on** the national holiday devoted to revered civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

Obama embraced his wife and daughters as the crowd roared its approval **after** he swore the oath of office.

It was the first time any U.S. president has mentioned gay rights **in** an inaugural address.